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**Education Committee**

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**HJM 4010**

**Brief Description:** Petitioning the President and Congress to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Linville, Jarrett, Quall, Williams, Darneille, Kenney, Chase, Ormsby, Simpson, Miloscia, Sells and Schual-Berke; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Asks Congress to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act and to refine the act's requirements to grant the time, flexibility, and changes necessary to ensure its successful implementation.

**Hearing Date:** 2/16/05

**Staff:** Susan Morrissey (786-7111).

**Background:**

In 2001, Congress amended and reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The amended ESEA is known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Under NCLB, students must be assessed against state standards in reading/language arts and mathematics in at least one grade in elementary, middle, and high school. Science will be added to the requirements in the 2007-08 school year. In addition, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, assessments in reading and mathematics will be added in third, fifth, sixth, and eighth grades.

Washington must report annually on the percentage of students achieving at grade level on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), at the school, district, and state level. The data from these reports is used to determine whether a school, a district, or the state has achieved adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward federal goals. An increasing percentage of students must pass the WASL each year in order to make AYP.

Reporting for AYP purposes must include the WASL passage percentages for disaggregated or subgroups. The groups categorize students based on race, ethnicity, gender, English language proficiency, disability status, and low-income status. A student's results may be counted more than once if the student fits into one or more of these subgroups. A school is deemed to have failed to make AYP if one or more of its disaggregated student groups does not achieve the requisite level of WASL passage. Similarly, a district is deemed to have failed to make AYP if

one or more of its schools does not meet the WASL passage goal, and finally the state is deemed to have failed to make AYP if one or more school districts fails to make AYP. A progressive schedule of annual consequences is imposed for failure to meet AYP for schools and school districts that receive federal Title I funds. There is no consequence for other schools or districts that fail to meet the requirement.

In addition to AYP requirements, the NCLB defines the qualifications needed by teachers and paraprofessionals who work in any facet of classroom instruction. It requires that states develop plans to achieve the goal that all teachers of core academic subjects be highly qualified by the end of the 2005-06 school year. States must include in their annual plans, measurable objectives that schools and districts must meet in moving toward the goal and must report on their progress in the annual report cards.

**Summary of Bill:**

Congress is asked to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act and to refine the act's requirements to grant the time, flexibility, and changes necessary to ensure its successful implementation.

Specifically, Congress should reconsider the limit of one-percent on the percentage of students who can use special education alternative assessments and consider more appropriate accountability measures for students with limited English proficiency. It should allow the state to incorporate its own accountability goals with the state uniform bar into the accountability system. It should also recognize the logistical obstacles imposed on school districts by the sanctions in the act.

Congress should fund the administrative costs associated with required new assessments and the cost of getting students to the state's learning standards, including students in the subgroups. Congress should also fund the costs associated with staff development, certification upgrades, and course work.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.